

FATHOM THIS!
The monthly newsletter from
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

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Welcome to a warm October in San Francisco, and to Fathom This! Find out about all the programs and events the park has to offer by going to the park's website www.nps.gov/safr/, park's cooperating association at www.maritime.org, and the park's cooperating Maritime Library Friends at <http://www.maritimelibraryfriends.org>. Programs include public sails aboard the 1891 scow schooner *Alma*, a theatre production of Homer's *The Odyssey*, ranger-led programs such as the new Who Are Those Swimmers? program about Aquatic Park's long history of recreational swimming, and a nature tour of Birds of the Bay. Guided tours of the 1886 square-rigged ship *Balclutha* meet aboard daily at 2:15pm. View the travelling exhibit Mapping The Pacific Coast: From Coronado to Lewis and Clark in the Maritime Museum. This exceptional exhibit runs through October 31. Boarding fees for the historic vessels berthed at Hyde Street Pier: Adults, \$5. Ages 15 and under, free. Free with national park

passes. Hyde Street Pier and Visitor Center open daily, 9:30am-5:00pm.
Maritime Library open Tues-Wed-Thurs 1:00-5:00pm.

Fathom This! is sent monthly. Feel free to forward it, and to enter it, in whole or in part, into blogs. To receive it, or to cancel, please email the editor at peter_kasin@nps.gov. Your name and contact information is never loaned or sold.

DAVID COFFIN, SEA MUSIC CONCERT

Saturday, October 15, 8pm, aboard Balclutha. Tickets: \$14 general, \$12 San Francisco Maritime National Park Association members. Tickets available by emailing events@maritime.org, or in person at The Maritime Store, at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier. Store: 415-775-2665. Store will serve as ticket booth, and will stay open until 9pm concert night.

Hear one of sea music's finest performers in this unique waterfront setting. From New England, David Coffin has performed traditional and contemporary sea music from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Brittany since 1980. His venues range from concert halls and coffeehouses to schools, radio, and museums. An engaging performer, he accompanies himself on concertina.

KLEBINGAT LECTURE SERIES: THE CAPTAIN'S ODYSSEY

Tuesday, October 18, 6:00pm. In the Maritime Library, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. E, 3rd Floor. Wheelchair accessible by elevator. Donation: \$5 general, \$4 library Friends and San Francisco Maritime National Park Association members.

Information and reservations: 415-561-7040, or email melani_van_petten@partner.nps.gov.

Author Marvin Shepherd will discuss his new book, *The Sea Captain's Odyssey - A Biography of Captain H.H. Buhne, 1822-1894*. Hans Heinrich Buhne was the first white settler to pilot a ship across the Humboldt Bar in 1850. Starting with virtually nothing, he went on to personal and commercial success as one of the founders of the town of Eureka.

FLOATING FILMS: CAPE FEAR (ORIGINAL CLASSIC VERSION)

Thursday, October 27, 8pm in the Maritime Museum, 900 Beach Street, foot of Polk. Wheelchair accessible. Open seating begins 7:30pm. Donation: \$5-\$15. Refreshments available. Information: events@maritime.org, and see the website at <http://www.maritime.org>.

Join us for this foray into "nautical noir" with the original Cape Fear. This is seaside psycho cinema at its best with the shirtless Robert Mitchum in his creepiest role ever. Ring in the spirit of Halloween with "panic and popcorn." They don't make terror movies like they used to. And...win prizes in the "chaos and kelp" Halloween costume contest.

NEW IN THE MARITIME STORE: SAILOR ON ICE

The Maritime Store located at 2905 Hyde Street, at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier. Open daily, 9:30am-5:30pm. 415-775-2665.

Park volunteer and Living History Program coordinator David Hirzel has a new book on the shelf at The Maritime Store: *Sailor On Ice: Tom Crean with Scott in the Antarctic: 1910-1913*. There are more famous names than Tom Crean's from the age of Antarctic exploration, but there are few stories as compelling as his. Time and again he was one o three - at times the only one - whose courage in

the face of seemingly insurmountable odds saved the lives of his companions. This book tells the story of a common man in uncommon circumstances, who met every challenge as it came with steadfast purpose. If he knew fear, he never showed it. *Sailor On Ice* goes with him from England to the Antarctic plateau, and back. We share his trials as they happen: the thrill of discovery, the danger of the sea-ice, the terror of extreme isolation, and the tragedy of the deaths of his closest friends.

NEW IN HISTORIC DOCUMENTS: DUDLEY THICKENS PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

In the Maritime Library, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. E. Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-5:00. Information: 415-561-7030.

Recently, the mezzanine of the Historic Documents Department has been filled with the sound of envelopes flipping and computer keys punching as the Dudley Thickens Photographs have been processed, and are now ready for you to discover.

This collection consists of approximately 3,450 photographs taken by Dudley Thickens, a life-long resident of San Ramon Valley and long-time employee of the Western Pacific Railroad. A railroad man at heart and avid member of the Bay Area Railroad Association, Thickens photographed and collected images of ships as well as railroads. Thickens diligently photographed the various merchant ships docked in San Francisco when the opportunity arose, and photographed other vessels in the Bay Area and beyond. Through his own research and correspondence with local maritime historian and collector Charles M. Loring, Thickens amassed an impressive amount of visual maritime history. Images include but are not limited to passenger and cargo vessels, tugboats, liberty and victory ships, lighthouses, and a few family photographs. Take a look at the finding aid, available online through Online Archives of California to find out more about Dudley Thickens and the numerous 20th century images documenting our rich sea-going history in the Bay Area and abroad. Link to Finding Aid: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark://13030/kt2z09r8s0>.

REMEMBERING BILL KOOIMAN: 1927 - 2011, MARITIME REFERENCE LIBRARIAN EXTRAORDINAIRE

Bill Kooiman joined the Navy in 1945 - before he graduated from high school - served again during the Korean War, and graduated from George Washington University in 1950, later studying French in Paris and Spanish in Mexico City. He worked for Grace Lines for 20 years as a purser aboard ship, passing through the Panama Canal over 90 times. In 1963 he became the Chief Purser on the SS *Hope*, the first peacetime hospital ship, and served there until the ship was retired in 1973.

After 10 years of part-time work aboard ships, Bill began work on what became a definitive history - *The Grace Ships - 1869-1969*. Not an established author, it became clear that he had published the book himself. A measure of his success as an author/publisher is that, remarkably, his self-published book sold out and today sells in the rare book market at several times its initial price.

In 1989, partly as a result of time spent in the J.Porter Shaw Maritime Library, Bill began what became a second career, also of 20 years. He retired from the park

in 2009. His life experience at sea, coupled with his self-taught research skills and his extensive knowledge of both maritime history and the park's library collection - all coalesced with a genial personality and his interest in the researcher as a person beyond the role of researcher. During those 20 years, Bill became known nationwide by maritime authors as the person to go to for prompt answers at just the depth needed, and the park's J. Porter Shaw Library became known nationwide for its excellence in reference service.

Bill's ashes will be scattered at sea sometime in the coming months, and a celebration of his life will take place at the Maritime Library. Rest in peace, Bill, you were a good shipmate.

-David Hull, Principal Librarian (Ret.).

LINKS

<http://www.nps.gov/safr/> San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.

<http://www.maritime.org> San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, the park's nonprofit member-supported cooperating association.

<http://www.library.nps.gov> The Maritime Library catalog.

<http://www.museum.nps.gov/safr/page.htm> The Maritime Museum catalog records.

<http://www.maritimelibraryfriends.org> The Maritime Library's nonprofit member-supported cooperating association.

<http://www.hydestreetlivinghistory.org> The park living History Program's volunteer created and managed website.

<http://www.mappingthepacificcoast.com> The travelling exhibit now in the Maritime museum through the end of October.

<http://www.corsair-viking.org> The San Francisco Sea Scouts, the park's neighboring partner in Aquatic Park.